

# Synthesis, structure and properties of V(IV) complex with *N'*-[*(E)*-(2,3-dihydroxyphenyl)metylidene]-2-phenylacetohydrazide

Janusz Szklarzewicz\*, Anna Jurowska, Maciej Hodorowicz, Ryszard Gryboś

Jagiellonian University, Faculty of Chemistry, Gronostajowa 2, 30-387 Kraków, Poland

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## Abstract

The synthesis and physicochemical properties of new vanadium(IV) complex of formula [VO(L)(phen)] is described. The L denotes ONO tridentate Schiff base derived from 2,3-dihydroxybenzaldehyde and phenylacetic hydrazide, while phen = 1,10-phenanthroline used as a co-ligand to stabilize the V(IV) oxidation state. The single crystal X-Ray crystal structure indicates on octahedral geometry of vanadium centre, with 1,10-phenanthroline nitrogen trans to the V=O bond. The complex crystallizes in a monoclinic  $P2_1/c$  space group, very unusual is that only one isomer is present in the crystal structure. The structure is stabilized by very weak hydrogen bonds and  $H\cdots\pi$  and  $\pi\cdots\pi$  interactions. The phenyl ring of hydrazide is strongly curved from ONO ligand plane by  $70.95^\circ$ . The spectroscopic characterization (IR, UV-Vis) as well as the cyclic voltammetry measurements are presented and discussed.

**Keywords:** vanadium, complex, Schiff base, structure, 2,3-dihydroxybenzaldehyde, phenylacetic hydrazide

## Introduction

Vanadium(IV) oxido complexes with Schiff bases are one of the most important issues in modern coordination chemistry [1-5]. The interesting properties of these type of compounds are related to the flexibility of the vanadium not only connected with possible geometries (both penta- and hexa-coordinated complexes can be isolated) but also with variety of oxidation states of the metal centre (from +3 to +5). In project, presented in this issue, we studied mainly the insulin mimetic properties of such complexes, but also correlation between physicochemical properties (such as structure, oxidation state of vanadium, complex stability, redox potentials etc.) and biological activity. It is worth to note, that the insulin-mimetic properties of vanadium complexes are known from decades [6-10], and several as BMOV or BEOV are used now as standards in diabetes studies investigations [11-15]. What is more, the anticancer, antifungal and antibacterial activities of vanadium complexes are also well recognized [16-18]. In case of vanadium different ligands were investigated in the study of insulin mimetic properties, maltol and its derivatives were found to be especially active [19,20]. The main problem is that the bidentate ligands were found to be released in organisms digestion system, resulting also in redox reactions leading to V(V) or V(IV) moieties and the role of vanadium complexes could be reduced to activity of simple  $VO^{2+}$

ions [21]. In last year's Schiff bases were also intensively studied as ligands, as they can be used as models of biological systems [22-24]. This is related not only to the C=N bond presence but also to the possibility of utilization many biologically active aldehydes and amines in their synthesis.

In this paper we described the synthesis and physicochemical characterization of vanadium(IV) complex with tridentate ONO hydrazone Schiff base ligand derived from 2,3-dihydroxybenzaldehyde and phenylacetic hydrazide. The use of tridentate ligand makes the complexes much more stable, and in biological activity studies, presented later in this issue, we observe a huge change of biological activity using different ONO ligands indicating that complexes in unchanged (or at least with ONO ligand still coordinated to vanadium) form passes to the cells. The X-ray structure measurement as well as the elemental analysis, magnetic susceptibility, IR, UV-Vis spectra and cyclic voltammetry are presented and indicate the coordination of the oxido, Schiff base and 1,10-phenanthroline ligands to the vanadium(IV) center. The 1,10-phenanthroline was used as a co-ligand to increase the complex stability and to fill the coordination sphere of V(IV).

## Materials and Methods

[VO(acac)<sub>2</sub>], 1,10-phenanthroline (phen), phenylacetic hydrazide and 2,3-dihydroxybenzaldehyde were of analytical grade (Aldrich) and were used as supplied. Ethanol (98%) of pharmaceutical grade was from Polmos, all other solvents were

\*Corresponding author: szklarze@chemia.uj.edu.pl,  
tel: 48-12-686-2504, fax: 48-12-686-2750

of analytical grade and were used as supplied.  $\text{BaSO}_4$  was of spectroscopic grade (Japan).  $\text{Bu}_4\text{NPF}_6$  was synthesized from  $\text{Bu}_4\text{NBr}$  and  $\text{KPF}_6$  by a standard method [25] and recrystallized from acetone. Microanalysis of carbon, hydrogen and nitrogen were performed using Elementar Vario MICRO Cube elemental analyzer. The electronic absorption spectra were recorded with Shimadzu UV-3600 UV-Vis-NIR spectrophotometer equipped with a CPS-240 temperature controller. Diffuse reflectance spectrum was measured in  $\text{BaSO}_4$  pellets with  $\text{BaSO}_4$  as a reference on Shimadzu UV-3600 UV-VIS-NIR equipped with an ISR-240 integrating sphere attachment in 200-3600 nm range. IR spectrum was recorded on a Bruker EQUINOX 55 FT-IR spectrophotometer in KBr pellets. The magnetic susceptibility measurement was performed on a SHERWOOD SCIENTIFIC magnetic susceptibility balance. Cyclic voltammetry measurements were carried out in DMSO with  $[\text{Bu}_4\text{N}]\text{PF}_6$  (0.1 M) as the supporting electrolyte, using Pt working and counter and Ag/AgCl as reference electrodes on an AUTOLAB/PGSTAT 128 N Potentiostat/Galvanostat.  $E_{1/2}$  values were calculated from the average anodic and cathodic peak potentials,  $E_{1/2} = 0.5(E_a + E_c)$ . The redox potentials were calibrated *versus* ferrocene (0.440 V *versus* SHE), which was used as an internal potential standard for measurements in organic solvents to avoid the influence of a liquid junction potential; the final values are reported *versus* the standard hydrogen electrode (SHE).

## Synthesis

The reaction was carried out in one step. The Schiff base ligand **L** ( $N'$ -[(*E*)-(2,3-dihydroxyphenyl)methylidene]-2-phenylacetohydrazide) was synthesized *in situ* from 2,3-dihydroxybenzaldehyde and phenylacetic hydrazide in 1 : 1 molar ratio and after completing the reaction vanadyl acetylacetonate was added. The reaction proceeds under anaerobic conditions (Ar) due to the fast oxidation of V(IV) to V(V) in condition used. The addition of phen as a co-ligand results in fast precipitation of the complex by filling the coordination sphere of vanadium and in stabilization of V(IV) oxidation state.

### [VO(L)(phen)], **1**

2,3-dihydroxybenzaldehyde (0.207 g, 1.5 mmol) and phenylacetic hydrazide (0.225 g, 1.5 mmol) in 50 ml of EtOH were refluxed for 14 minutes under Ar yielding a transparent light yellow solution. Then  $[\text{VO}(\text{acac})_2]$  (0.398 g, 1.5 mmol) was added and the mixture was refluxed for 45 minutes giving dark-brown transparent solution. Then phen (0.271 g, 1.5 mmol) was added and reflux was continued for 6 minutes. The mixture was left aside for cooling and after 2 hours the black precipitate was filtered off, washed with EtOH and dried in air. Yield 0.464 g. MW = 515.41. Calculated for  $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_4\text{O}_4\text{V}$ : C, 62.92; H, 3.91; N, 10.87 %. Found: C, 61.88; H, 3.94; N, 10.52 %. Magnetic susceptibility measurement,  $\mu = 1.41 \mu_B$ .

## Crystallographic data collection and structure refinement

Diffraction intensity data for single crystal of the compound (**1**) were collected at room temperature on a KappaCCD (Nonius) diffractometer with graphite-monochromated Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$ ). Cell refinement and data reduction were performed using firmware [26, 27]. Positions of all of non-hydrogen atoms were determined by direct methods using SHELXL-2017/1 [28]. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically using weighted full-matrix least-squares on  $F^2$ . Refinement and further calculations were carried out using SHELXL 2017/1 [28]. All hydrogen atoms joined to carbon atoms were positioned with an idealized geometries and refined using a riding model with  $U_{\text{iso}}(\text{H})$  fixed at 1.5  $U_{\text{eq}}$  of C for methyl groups and 1.2  $U_{\text{eq}}$  of C for other groups. The hydrogen atom of -OH (O8) substituent was found in the difference-Fourier map and refined with an isotropic thermal parameter. The figures were made using DIAMOND software [29]. CCDC 1851403 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for the complex. These data can be obtained free of charge from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via [www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data\\_request/cif](http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif).

## Results and Discussion

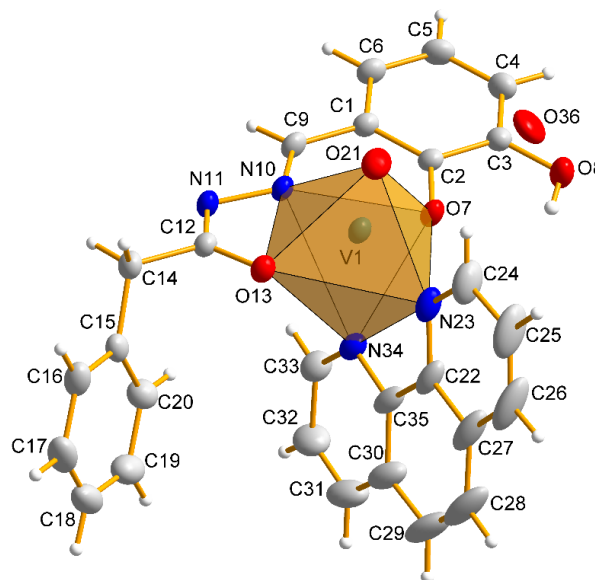
The reaction of  $[\text{VO}(\text{acac})_2]$  with Schiff base ligand **L** ( $N'$ -[(*E*)-(2,3-dihydroxyphenyl)methylidene]-2-phenylacetohydrazide), synthesized *in situ* from 2,3-dihydroxybenzaldehyde and phenylacetic hydrazide in 1 : 1 in EtOH solvent under anaerobic conditions, results in formation of dark brown solution. Addition of phen results in solution colour change to dark red and fast precipitation of complex **1** and stabilization of +4 oxidation state of vanadium. Absence of phen results in sensitivity of complex solution on oxygen and formation of the mixture of the products. The magnetic susceptibility measurement indicates on V(IV) oxidation state in **1**. Complex is stable in air, soluble in organic solvents and almost insoluble in water.

### 1. Crystal structure

The complex crystallizes in the monoclinic space group  $P2_1/c$  with the asymmetric cell unit containing one molecule of  $[\text{VO}(\text{phen})]$  complex. The crystallographic data and detailed information on the structure solution and refinement for **1** are given in Table 1 while the molecular structure with the atom labelling scheme is illustrated in Fig. 1. The selected bond parameters are summarized in Table 2.

As depicted in Fig. 1 the oxidovanadium cation ( $\text{VO}^{2+}$ ) is meridionally coordinated by the  $\text{L}^{2-}$  tridentate hydrazone ligand, through the phenolate oxygen (O7), azomethine nitrogen (N10) and enolate oxygen (O13) and facially by bidentate phen ligand (N23, N34). The V1 atom presents a slightly distorted  $\text{O3N3}$  octa-

hedral environment with the O7, N10, O13 atoms from the  $L_{ONO}^{2-}$  ligand and N23 from the  $L_{phen}$  molecule defining the equatorial plane. The second nitrogen atom of phen (N34) and the  $O_{oxido}$  (O21) occupy the axial positions (difference between the V1-N34 and V1-O21 is 0.743 Å). The L ligand of the complex appears to be strongly twisted which is noticeable on the basis of the value of the dihedral angle between dihydroxyphenyl and phenyl rings (70.95°). The presented structure of **1** is the first vanadium complex listed in the literature, with phenylacetic hydrazide or with Schiff bases with this component, thus it is difficult to compare the bond lengths and angles with similar complexes. In literature the complexes with copper, silver, nickel and manganese are known, in most cases they are not monomers [30–34]. For ligand L dihedral angle between dihydroxyphenyl and phenyl rings is 81.71°. For monomeric complexes it can be smaller; 70.81° for square planar copper [30], 78.23° for octahedral copper [30] and bigger as for silver complex 85.38° [33]. For polymeric complexes the lowest angle was found for hexameric manganese complex – 68.80° [34], for trimeric Ni(II) complex –80.84° [31] and for dimeric complexes vary between 71.94 to 89.32° [30].



**Figure 1.** The asymmetric part of the unit cell of the complex **1** with adopted atomic numbering scheme. All non-hydrogen atoms are represented at 30% probability thermal ellipsoids

**Table 1.** Crystal data and structure refinement for **1**

Empirical formula	$C_{27}H_{20}N_4O_{4.25}V$
Formula weight	519.41
Temperature	293(2) K
Wavelength	0.71073 Å
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	$P2_1/c$
Unit cell dimensions	$a = 10.2890(3)$ Å $\alpha = 90^\circ$ $b = 16.0410(5)$ Å $\beta = 97.106(2)^\circ$ $c = 14.3930(4)$ Å $\gamma = 90^\circ$
Volume	$2357.26(12)$ Å <sup>3</sup>
Z	1
Density (calculated)	$1.464$ Mg/m <sup>3</sup>
Absorption coefficient	$0.465$ mm <sup>-1</sup>
F(000)	1068
Crystal size	$0.150 \times 0.140 \times 0.050$ mm <sup>3</sup>
Theta range for data collection	$2.913$ to $27.504^\circ$
Index ranges	$-13 \leq h \leq 13$ , $-20 \leq k \leq 20$ , $-18 \leq l \leq 18$
Reflections collected	19452
Independent reflections	5393 [R(int) = 0.0475]
Completeness to theta = $25.242^\circ$	99.7 %
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on $F^2$
Data / restraints / parameters	5393 / 0 / 338
Goodness-of-fit on $F^2$	1.070
Final R indices [ $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ]	$R1 = 0.0486$ , $wR2 = 0.1059$
R indices (all data)	$R1 = 0.0759$ , $wR2 = 0.1175$
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.449 and $-0.346$ e.Å <sup>-3</sup>

**Table 2.** Selected bond lengths [ $\text{\AA}$ ] and bond angles [ $^\circ$ ] in **1**

Bond lengths			
V(1)-O(21)	1.5983(19)	C(15)-C(16)	1.384(4)
V(1)-O(7)	1.9452(16)	C(16)-C(17)	1.396(4)
V(1)-O(13)	2.0145(16)	C(17)-C(18)	1.361(5)
V(1)-N(10)	2.0517(18)	C(18)-C(19)	1.370(5)
V(1)-N(23)	2.149(2)	C(19)-C(20)	1.387(4)
V(1)-N(34)	2.341(2)	C(22)-N(23)	1.356(4)
C(1)-C(2)	1.412(3)	C(22)-C(27)	1.414(4)
C(1)-C(6)	1.413(3)	C(22)-C(35)	1.419(4)
C(1)-C(9)	1.434(3)	N(23)-C(24)	1.329(4)
C(2)-O(7)	1.323(3)	C(24)-C(25)	1.405(5)
C(2)-C(3)	1.411(3)	C(25)-C(26)	1.345(6)
C(3)-O(8)	1.361(3)	C(26)-C(27)	1.406(6)
C(3)-C(4)	1.376(3)	C(27)-C(28)	1.431(6)
C(4)-C(5)	1.390(4)	C(28)-C(29)	1.328(6)
C(5)-C(6)	1.363(4)	C(29)-C(30)	1.435(5)
C(9)-N(10)	1.289(3)	C(30)-C(31)	1.386(5)
N(10)-N(11)	1.414(3)	C(30)-C(35)	1.410(4)
N(11)-C(12)	1.301(3)	C(31)-C(32)	1.370(5)
C(12)-O(13)	1.299(3)	C(32)-C(33)	1.403(4)
C(12)-C(14)	1.500(3)	C(33)-N(34)	1.323(3)
C(14)-C(15)	1.516(3)	N(34)-C(35)	1.360(3)
C(15)-C(20)	1.381(4)		
Bond angles			
O(21)-V(1)-O(7)	102.09(9)	O(13)-V(1)-N(23)	95.49(7)
O(21)-V(1)-O(13)	101.27(9)	N(10)-V(1)-N(23)	163.14(9)
O(7)-V(1)-O(13)	153.93(7)	O(21)-V(1)-N(34)	164.14(9)
O(21)-V(1)-N(10)	104.41(9)	O(7)-V(1)-N(34)	81.95(7)
O(7)-V(1)-N(10)	86.58(7)	O(13)-V(1)-N(34)	78.72(7)
O(13)-V(1)-N(10)	76.51(7)	N(10)-V(1)-N(34)	91.07(7)
O(21)-V(1)-N(23)	91.62(10)	N(23)-V(1)-N(34)	72.66(8)
O(7)-V(1)-N(23)	95.26(7)		

The packing scheme, shown in Fig. 2, indicates the zig-zag type of complex arrangement with the aromatic rings forming an s shape chains. Packing reveals that the complex molecules are stabilized by three types of hydrogen bonds and additionally by two types of C-H $\cdots\pi$  and two  $\pi\cdots\pi$  interactions which are

they are very weak. The interesting is the bifurcated hydrogen bond between O7, O8 and N11. All these interactions are responsible for self-assembly of the complex molecules in layers (Fig. 2) and stabilization of the 3D structure. In the vanadium complex, studied earlier, the mixture of isomers with the different

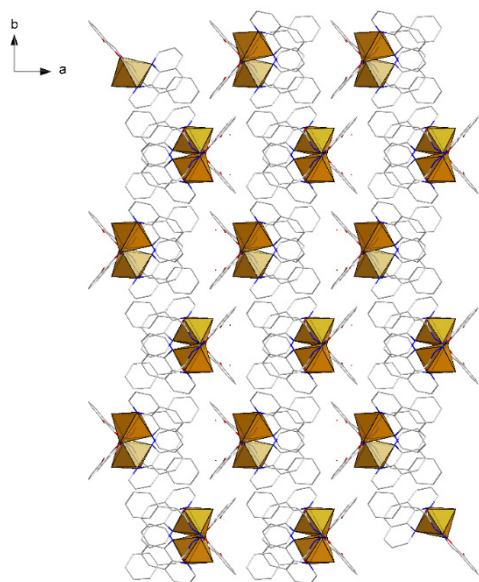
**Table 3.** Hydrogen bonds for **1** [ $\text{\AA}$  and  $^\circ$ ]

D-H...A	d(D-H)	d(H...A)	d(D...A)	<(DHA)
C(24)-H(24)...O(21)	0.93	2.48	2.944(4)	110.8
O(8)-H(8)...O(7)	0.77(3)	2.25(3)	2.663(2)	114(3)
O(8)-H(8)...N(11) <sup>i</sup>	0.77(3)	2.26(4)	2.914(3)	143(3)

Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms: <sup>i</sup> x, -y+1/2, z+1/2

summarized in Tables 3, 4 and 5. Fig. 3 and 4 show the  $\pi$  interactions in **1**. The hydrogen bond distances are relatively short, but the <(DHA) angle is much lower than  $180^\circ$  indicating that

position of 5- and 6-membered ring of ONO ligand *versus* phen ligand was observed [35]. In **1** rather unusual case of only one isomer presence in cell unit is observed.



**Figure 2.** The crystal packing in **1** through [001] direction

**Table 4.**  $\pi \dots \pi$  interactions in **1**

	$\pi \dots \pi$	shift
Cg(1)...Cg(2)[2-X,-Y,1-Z]	3.683(2)	1.108
Cg(2)...Cg(1)[2-X,-Y,1-Z]	3.682(2)	1.168

**Cg(1):** N(23)-C(22)-C(27)-C(26)-C(25)-C(24),

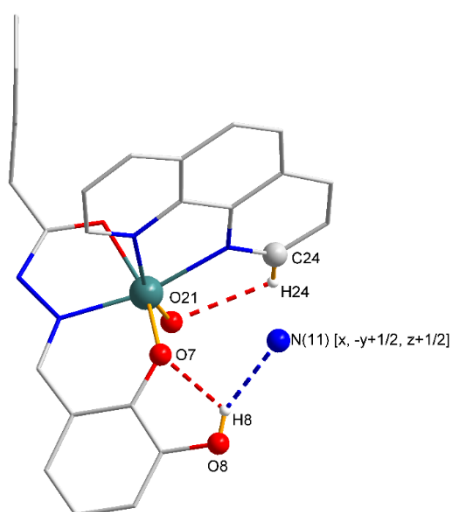
**Cg(2):** C(22)-C(27)-C(28)-C(29)-C(30)-C(35)

**Table 5.** C-H... $\pi$  interactions in **1**

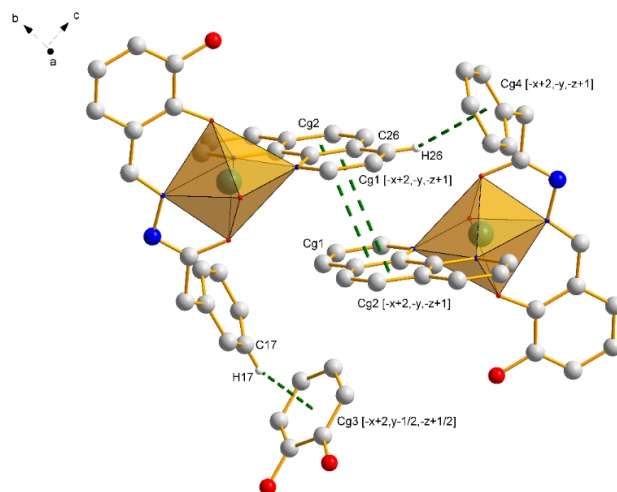
	H...Cg	X-H...Cg	X...Cg
C(17)-H(17)...Cg(3)[2-X,-1/2+Y,1/2-Z]	2.81	145	3.607(4)
C(26)-H(26)...Cg(4)[2-X,-Y,1-Z]	2.88	132	3.574(4)

**Cg(3):** C(1)-C(2)-C(3)-C(4)-C(5)-C(6),

**Cg(4):** C(15)-C(16)-C(17)-C(18)-C(19)-C(20)



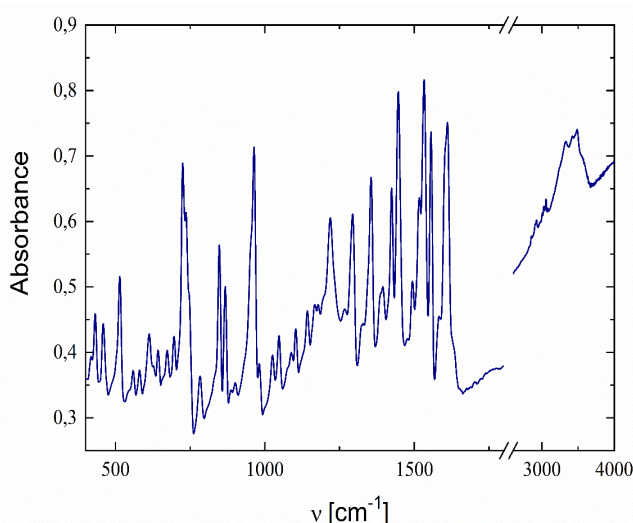
**Figure 3.** The 3D supramolecular network of **1** formed through hydrogen bonds. H-atoms (without H24 and H8) are omitted for clarity



**Figure 4.** The 3D supramolecular network of **1** formed through hydrogen bonds. H-atoms (without H17 and H26) are omitted for clarity

## 2. Spectral data

The IR spectrum of **1** in KBr (in 400-4000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) is presented in Fig. 5. The most important is the very strong band at 962  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , typical for V(IV) complexes [36, 37]. The band at 1610  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  can be attributed to imino C=N bond typical for Schiff bases and characteristic bands for phen at 725, 1424 and 1515  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  [38]. In other region the bands of Schiff base ligand components are observed. The absence of bands of solvent molecules confirms the complex composition.

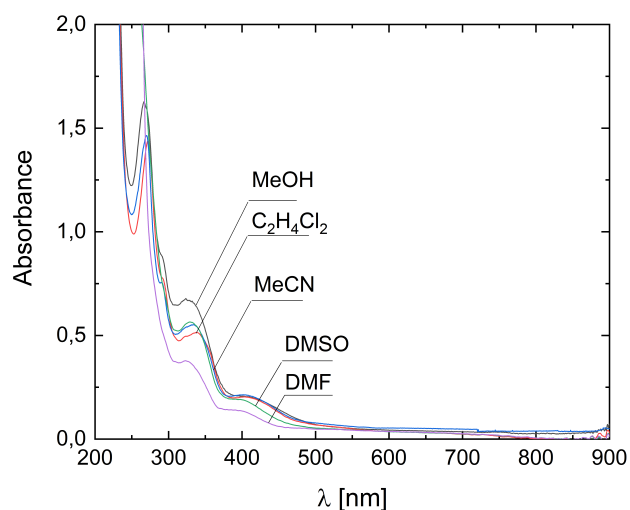


**Figure 5.** The IR spectrum of **1** in KBr.

The UV-Vis solution spectra were measured in 200 – 900 nm range and are presented in Fig. 6. The bands in UV part are a superposition of the phen and L ligands while that above 400 nm to metal-to-ligand charge-transfer (MLCT) connected with Schiff base ligand (L). The MLCT character of the band at ca. 410 nm is confirmed by its solvatochromism, shown in Fig. 6. In

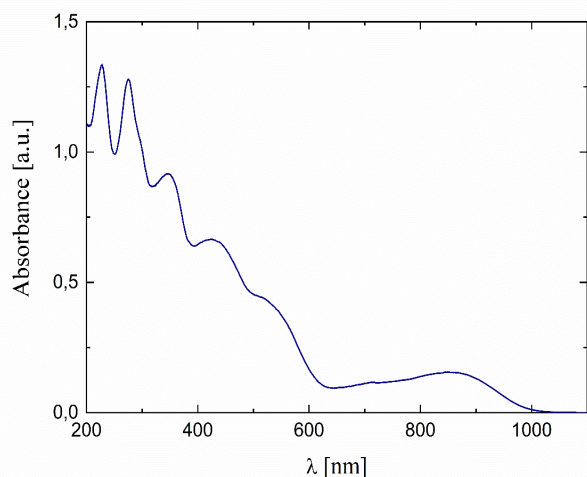


DMF and DMSO due to the solvent cut-off range, bands below 315 nm cannot be observed.



**Figure 6.** The electronic spectra of **1** in different solvents,  $d = 1$  cm

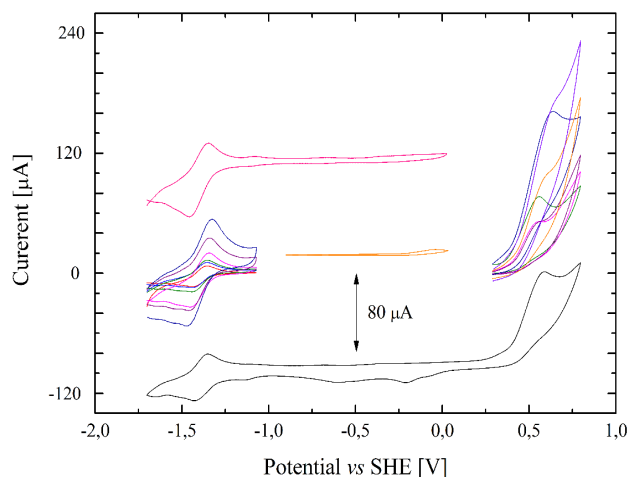
The molar absorption coefficients in DMSO are  $2.91 \cdot 10^3 \text{ dm}^3\text{M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$  (for 394 nm band) and  $9.6 \cdot 10^3 \text{ dm}^3\text{M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$  (for 329 nm band). The intensity of these bands indicates on their charge-transfer (CT) character. Due to low solubility of the complex in the studied solvent,  $d-d$  transitions are not observed in solution. The more interesting is the reflection spectrum, presented in Fig. 7 after Kubelka-Munk transformation, where band at  $851 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and shoulder at ca.  $722 \text{ nm}$  are observed. These bands can be attributed to  $d-d$  transitions of V(IV), the presence of two bands can be induced by the distortion of octahedron, typical attributed to the Jahn-Teller effect of  $d^1$  configuration of V(IV). In the UV part the bands attributed to phen and Schiff base ligands (at 228, 275 and 348 nm) are observed. The bands at 424 and 521 nm can be attributed to CT transitions of L and phen ligand respectively. The solutions of **1** in organic solvents were found to be relatively stable in time, and after several hours only small changes in spectra can be detected.



**Figure 7.** The reflection spectrum of **1** after Kubelka-Munk transformation

### 3. Cyclic voltammetry measurements

The cyclic voltammetry measurements results of **1** in DMSO are presented in Fig. 8. Pt working and counting, Ag/AgCl as a reference electrode,  $0.1\text{M Bu}_4\text{NPF}_6$  as electrolyte were used. The irreversible oxidation peak at  $0.589 \text{ V}$  can be attributed to V(IV/V) redox couple. The peak position is almost independent on scan speed, as shown in inset of the Fig. 8. Such a behavior is rather typical for reversible redox couple, the lack of reduction peak can be interpreted as chemical reduction following the oxidation process. The presence of two reduction peaks at  $-0.208 \text{ V}$  and  $-6.00 \text{ V}$  is in agreement with this observation and these peaks can be attributed to reduction of side products of V(V) chemical reduction and they are not observed when scan range is reduced (see middle inset in Fig. 8). The reversible process at  $E_{1/2} = -1.39 \text{ V}$  with  $\Delta E = 108 \text{ mV}$  at  $100 \text{ mV}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$  is attributed to phen ligand reduction ( $\text{phen} + e^- = \text{phen}^-$ ).



**Figure 8.** The cyclic voltammetry measurements of **1** in DMSO. Pt working and counting, Ag/AgCl as a reference electrode,  $0.1\text{M Bu}_4\text{NPF}_6$  as electrolyte. Scan speed  $100 \text{ mV}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ . Insets, scan speed  $100 \text{ mV}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ , for measurements at different scan speeds it vary from  $20$  to  $250 \text{ mV}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$

### Conclusions

The new complex of V(IV) with ONO tridentate, oxido and phen ligands was isolated and described. It was found to be promising for future investigation of its biological activity, due to its stability in solid state and in solvent studied. The addition of phen results in stabilization of +4 oxidation state of vanadium. The X-ray crystal structure shows, that only one isomer is present in the unit cell. The question which still requires further investigations is if this is the only product of the synthetic procedure or **1** is a mixture of isomers, but only one of them was chosen for measurements. We could not distinguish this basing on other measurements till now. The cyclic voltammetry shows, that V(IV) can be relatively easy oxidized to V(V), but this induces chemical reactions. Such a behavior may be very important for biological activity of **1** as insulin mimetic compound.

## Acknowledgments

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